

woman member of an influential organization was given to her once more, as she was appointed to the University of North Florida board of trustees.

But Annette's service to her community transcends far beyond the realm of creating an environment where business can flourish. She is committed to improving education for people in Florida, and has organized fundraisers with her Synagogue, B'nai Torah, to assist students in need at FAU. Furthermore, in Miami she was instrumental in the creation of Israel Tennis Centers, a Jewish organization that fosters cultural exchange by connecting athletes who are part of the global Jewish community.

Today, women make up half of our workforce here in the United States. And although we have made great strides since the 1960's when Annette first began her career, we are often reminded that there is still room for progress. Business owners like Annette who took on careers previously reserved for men are an inspiration to us all. She reminds us that with tenacity and courage it is possible to break barriers and give women a seat at the table.

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HONORING LIEUTENANT KEITH  
WHEELER

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**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Keith Wheeler for his tremendous service to the people of Aroostook County.

On May 6, 2012, Lieutenant Wheeler will have completed his 40th year of exemplary service in the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office. Keith began his career in law enforcement as a jail guard at the age of 24. As a Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant and a Lieutenant, he has never wavered from his dedication to the community or his desire to help people. These values have made Lieutenant Wheeler a fixture in the Country and a highly effective Commander of the Sheriff Office's Law Enforcement Division.

Lieutenant Wheeler is also known for his ability to form close relationships and inspire confidence amongst his colleagues. Retired Chief Deputy Shirley Cleary has been a career long role model and friend to Keith, always stressing the importance of treating people the way you would want to be treated. Lieutenant Wheeler was also entrusted to coordinate the state's Marijuana Eradication Program. In 2008, he was named the Deputy Sheriff of the year by the Maine Sheriff's Association.

I am pleased to join the Aroostook County Sheriff's Office, and the people of Maine, in celebrating Lieutenant Wheeler's 40 years of commendable service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Lieutenant Wheeler on achieving this milestone, and thanking him for all that he does to keep Maine families safe.

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, imagine one million pounds, 500 tons of prescription pills piled high on the National Mall. Those numbers and that image boggle the mind. And yet, in thirteen short months, that's just about the amount of leftover or expired drugs legions of concerned and compassionate Americans have turned in during the last three National Drug Take Back Days sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

That total may well be only the tip of the iceberg threatening our National ship of state. On this Saturday, April 28, 2012, the American people and every Member of Congress have the opportunity to strike a blow to rid our nation of the prescription drug abuse scourge that is ravaging so many of our families and communities. The DEA, along with almost 4,000 state and local law enforcement partners are, once again, sponsoring a National Drug Take Back Day.

This is a national call to action. Everyone can participate; everyone needs to participate, because one of the most insidious contributors to this growing epidemic lurks in every home bathroom.

"Ground Zero" for Drug Take Back Day is each medicine cabinet in humble homes across the country. Participation is made simple by the vast number of drop-off points made available by our law enforcement professionals—over 5,300 sites in all 50 states of our nation.

A resounding and very clear message at the nation's first National Summit on Prescription Drug Abuse was made: one of the most cost effective, long-term measures we can take to turn the tide on prescription drug abuse is prevention. That effort starts in our own cabinets and cupboards.

Once described as America's "Silent Epidemic," the abuse of prescription drugs can be openly witnessed any hour—day or night—on countless street corners across the country. Today, prescription drug abuse may be the biggest challenge of our society, and the only way its destructive trend can be reversed is if everyone—I mean, everyone—gets involved.

We are traveling a difficult and challenging path to save an entire generation. But, events and action on a national level, like Drug Take Back Day, provide simple and effective solutions in our quest to conquer the problem of prescription drug abuse.

Let us act with dispatch and compassion and with an acute understanding of the enormity of the challenge before us. Working in partnership with law enforcement, not as vigilantes or self appointed marshals Drug Take Back Day is one of the simplest, most effective, prevention measures we have on our side.

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DANIEL KOHEN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Kohen

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Daniel Kohen is a 12th grader at Pomona High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Kohen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Kohen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2012*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise today in order to recognize the sixty-fourth anniversary of Israel's independence. After 2,000 years the Jewish people regained their independence with the establishment of the State of Israel on April 26, 1948.

Israel was conceived during a dark time for the Jewish people and for the world, but because of their steadfast vision and perseverance they have become a beacon of prosperity and hope for the entire world to follow.

For sixty-four years the United States and Israel have been unwavering partners. We share an unbreakable bond based in mutual respect, shared values, and the ideal of equal opportunity for all. Our two nations have worked together side by side to promote respect for human rights and to ensure a more secure and stable world for all.

As President Obama has said, and as I have said so many times before, the security of Israel is of paramount importance, and our support for that security is unbreakable. We should take this occasion to reinforce this bond and renew our commitment into the future.

It is also fitting to take this occasion to focus on the future of a lasting peace. As I and my colleagues have repeatedly said, the only path to a lasting peace is through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians that lead to a two-state solution. We must also acknowledge that a lasting peace cannot be achieved while a contingent within the Palestinian Government does not recognize Israel's right to exist. The State of Israel has existed for sixty-four years and will continue to endure. It is time all factions within the Palestinian Government acknowledge this so that we can move forward to achieve peace for a region that so greatly desires it.

Mr. Speaker, Israel has much to be proud of today. On this day of independence, I congratulate the people of Israel for their perseverance and for the hope of a brighter future as our two nations continue down a path of prosperity and peace for years to come.